



MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP – CANDIDATE EVALUATION CRITERIA

In appointing Scholars the selectors will look for candidates who have the potential to excel as scholars, as leaders and as contributors to improved UK-US understanding. Assessment will be based on academic merit, leadership potential and ambassadorial potential.

The selection criteria are divided into three equally weighted categories:

- **Academic Merit**
- **Leadership Potential**
- **Ambassadorial Potential**

ACADEMIC MERIT:

1. **Quality of Programme of study.** Is the proposed programme coherent and well thought through? Does the candidate's writing give evidence of higher-order thinking skills and the ability to express thoughts clearly and without jargon?
2. **Knowledge of Proposed Courses and Supervisors.** Has the candidate established the relevance of the proposed academic programme to his or her scholarly and career plans and, in the case of a research proposal, provided evidence of substantive engagement with the proposed supervisor(s)? Is there a compelling academic rationale for doing the work at a British university with Marshall support?
3. **Evidence of Academic Background that is Strong and Relevant.** Does the *transcript* show evidence of high academic achievement. Does this coursework prepare the candidate for the planned field of study? Is there other evidence of high-level performance (e.g. merit scholarships, academic prizes, research results, artistic creations, publications)?
4. **Quality and Breadth of Recommendations.** Are the *recommendations* excellent and from people who know the candidate and can make informed comparisons with many other students? Do the recommendations, taken together, provide specific and well-documented details about leadership and ambassadorial potential as well as academic excellence?

LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL:

1. **Ability to Deliver Results.** Can the candidate demonstrate how he or she delivered results from a position of leadership - whether by organizing, mobilizing or inspiring others. This may have been through his/her intellectual or artistic contributions or in other ways. Is there evidence that the candidate initiated something and carried it through to an outcome? Is the candidate likely to attain a position of influence in his/her field of expertise?
2. **Strength of Purpose.** Has the applicant demonstrated courage of conviction, persistence, and determination in the pursuit of his or her goals? Do the candidate's extra-curricular activities indicate commitment?
3. **Creativity.** Is there evidence of creativity and innovation in the candidate's approach to answering questions or solving problems?
4. **Self -Awareness.** Is there evidence of a strong desire to contribute to society? Is the candidate aware of his or her role in particular activities and impact on other people? Can the candidate explain what changed as a result of his or her involvement in something?

AMBASSADORIAL POTENTIAL:

1. Knowledge of US/UK Relations. Is there evidence that the candidate understands the general US/UK relationship, as well as specific aspects of this relationship that are pertinent to his or her field of study? Is the candidate aware of opportunities for on-going relationships with UK counterparts?
2. Evidence of Transferable Extra-curricular Activities. What extracurricular activities has the candidate undertaken that could be put to use in the UK to meet the Marshall Scholarships' objective of gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain?
3. Interpersonal Skills and Ability to Engage with Others. Does the candidate have a track record of proactively and enthusiastically building productive relationships with people outside his or her peer group, particularly when engaging with them in his/her field of expertise. Does the candidate appreciate the needs, motives and concerns of others?
4. Self-confidence and ability to Seize Opportunities. How has the candidate responded to opportunities and what was the result?